**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*The Knight’s Tale* (After Reading)

Active Reading Reinforcement

**How It All Goes Down**

The noble Duke Theseus of Athens is on his way home from his invasion of Scythia, where he has won a wife, Hippolyta, and a sister-in-law, Emily. Sounds like a pretty successful trip, right? Along the way, Theseus & Co. meet a group of crying women. They beg Theseus to take vengeance on Creon, King of Thebes, because of his refusal to allow them to give their husbands' bodies a proper burial. Theseus agrees and beats Creon. In the process, he wins two noble Theban hostages, cousins Palamon and Arcite.

1. What is the Duke’s name? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where is he coming from?

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1. What is the name of his wife? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the name of his sister-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who does Theseus meet along the way?

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1. What do the crying women talk Theseus into?

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1. What hostages does Theseus win?

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Theseus throws Palamon and Arcite in the slammer (a tower next to his garden), without ransom. One day in early May, Emily walks in the garden, gathering flowers. Palamon sees her from the prison window and immediately starts crushing on her. He's so smitten that he cries out. Hearing his cry, Arcite runs to his cousin. But as soon as he lays eyes on Emily, he falls for her too. The knights argue about who gets dibs on Emily. Arcite finally decides that it's a dumb argument to have; since both knights will be in prison forever, they'll just have to love Emily from afar with no hope of consummation.

1. What does Theseus do to Palamon and Arcite?

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1. Who walks into the garden? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who sees Emily first?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who sees Emily second? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why does Arcite decide that this is a dumb argument?

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Or maybe not. Soon, Arcite gets out of jail because he and Theseus have a mutual friend, who petitioned to get Arcite released. The only catch is that Arcite has to leave Athens and never set foot in the city again. Arcite moans and groans and feels sorry for himself, convinced that Palamon is better off than him because he gets to see Emily every day. Palamon, on the other hand, thinks that Arcite is a lucky dog because he can assemble an army to win Emily in battle.

1. Why does Arcite get out of jail?

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1. What is the “catch?”

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Arcite returns to Thebes for a while, but, unable to stay away from Emily, quickly returns to Athens disguised as a servant. He works his way into Theseus's household, becoming Emily's manservant.

1. How does Arcite return to Thebes?

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Meanwhile, Palamon has managed to escape from prison. He takes shelter in a grove of trees not far from the palace, planning to continue his journey under cover of nightfall. And – surprise, surprise – Arcite happens to go walking in that same grove. Palamon doesn't recognize him at first because of his disguise. When Arcite begins to speak of his love for Emily (because, you know, lovers always talk to themselves about their crushes), though, Palamon figures out who he is and leaps from the bushes, outraged. He and Arcite bicker. Arcite challenges Palamon to a duel, promising to return the next day with armor and weapons for Palamon, to ensure a fair fight.

1. Who escapes from prison? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do Arcite and Palamon fight?

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The next day comes, and the two knights begin their duel. Duke Theseus and his party, out hawking, happen to come across the two knights as they battle. Theseus orders them to stop. When he finds out who they are at what they're fighting about, he at first wants to put them to death. But when the ladies, especially Hippolyta and Emily, beg for mercy, Theseus reconsiders. The Duke admits that he, too, has done some pretty stupid things for love.

1. Who orders Arcite and Palamon to stop fighting? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why doesn’t Theseus have them put to death?

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Theseus decides that each of the knights must return in one year's time with one hundred knights, in order to fight an epic joust. The winner will get Emily. The knights agree, and ride home to Athens to gather knights. Meanwhile, Theseus pours time and money into building a huge stadium for the joust. It's like he's prepping for the World Cup. The stadium is complete with temples dedicated to Venus (goddess of love), Mars (god of war), and Diana (goddess of the hunt).

1. What does the duke decide?

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1. What does the winner get?

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After a year has passed, Palamon and Arcite return to Athens, where everybody is ready to watch the competition and party. On the morning of the joust, the two knights and Emily visit the different temples. Palamon prays to Venus to grant him Emily, while Arcite asks Mars for victory in the joust. Emily, on the other hand, asks Diana to grant her perpetual virginity. (Guess she doesn't want to marry either of these guys.) Only Emily's request is refused. The knights' requests cause a conflict between Mars and Venus in the Heavens, but Jupiter (the king of the Gods) figures out a way to please both of them.

1. Why do Palamona nd Arcite return to Athens?

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1. Does Emily want to marry? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The joust begins, and many captives are taken. The fighting is fierce on both sides. In the end, Palamon is captured, and Arcite wins. On his victory ride, an earthquake in the stadium causes Arcite's horse to trip, sending him headfirst to the ground. Despite cracking his head pretty hard, everyone is sure that Arcite will recover. That night the people of Athens celebrate the upcoming marriage of Emily and Arcite.

1. Who is captured? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who wins? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Arcite fall? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

But Arcite doesn't recover. He dies with Emily and Palamon at his bedside, using his last breath to tell Emily what a great guy Palamon is. Theseus arranges a fancy funeral for Arcite, after which Palamon returns to Thebes in mourning. He doesn't stay in Thebes very long, though. Theseus's counselors want an alliance between Athens and Thebes, and think that a marriage between Palamon and Emily would be just the thing. Theseus gives a long speech about how death is a part of God's plan for the world. At the end, he recommends that Palamon and Emily marry. They agree, and the story ends with a big, happy wedding.

1. Does Arcite get better? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does Arcite tell Emily with his last breath?

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1. What does Theseus’s counselors recommend?

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1. Who marries in the end?

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